

Nettie Goldstein Farber

(4/28/1930 – 12/13/2005)

Harriet Holtzman

Nettie Farber died on December 13th after a short struggle with lymphoma. Her death was an extreme shock and loss to all who knew her. Nettie was one of the kindest, warmest, most generous and least ego-driven person I knew.

She and I first met at the busses leaving for Camp Kinderland in 1938. It was my first year in camp and her third. We were the same age and were in the same bunk. Though she was only 8 years old, she already exhibited those qualities to which all who knew her and worked with her throughout her life were so drawn. She immediately put me at ease and welcomed me with a smile into the life at camp as she experienced it. I was, without question, a new, dear *khaverte* (comrade) and pal.

Her younger sister, Ethel, noted at the funeral that Yiddish was Nettie's first language and her lifelong passion. Her involvement in secular Jewish culture sustained her and forged a community of close friendships and brought her into contact with countless like-minded individuals.

In the 1940's Nettie was a Kinderland counselor and Edith Segal's assistant and in 1945 she worked at Camp Naivelt as the dance counselor.

Later, for seven years she was at the Emma Lazarus clubs as an archivist. Then she went to work at the *Morgn Freiheit*, a left-wing Yiddish newspaper from 1976 to 1988

when the paper ceased publishing. In addition to her secretarial work there, she assisted co-editors Paul Novick and Chaim Suller, translated New York Times editorials into Yiddish and assisted all those who called or came with inquiries.

After the *Freiheit* closed, from the end of 1988 to early 2005 Nettie was with the League for Yiddish as the administrative assistant to the executive director, Mordkhe Schaechter. As in her previous work at the "Emmas" and the *Freiheit*, she was valued for her broad and deep knowledge, her kindness and eagerness to help all who needed assistance and her selfless sense of responsibility.

Nettie and her husband Shaurain (Sherry) participated in many of Kinderland's activities and were members of the Editorial Advisory Council of the magazine, Jewish Currents.

Nettie will be sorely missed by her friends and colleagues for her gentleness, loyal and non-judgmental friendship, generosity of spirit and her ability to make everyone feel special.

Her family's loss is immeasurable – she was the emotional and practical hub of her immediate and extended families, which crossed continents. She leaves her husband of 55 years, Shaurain, her daughter Allyn Ann, her son Reuben, her sister Ethel Raim (a founder and director of the singing group, the Pennywhistlers) and Ethel's partner, Catherine Foster.